I had expected. I had heard of Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, and Crossbills, but I saw nothing of them, and the only birds characteristic of the region were *Certhia familiaris* and the *Parus* before mentined, both of which are tolerably abundant. The other birds I noticed on the summit were some species of Eagle (possibly *Aquila heliaca*), *Gyps fulvus, Athene noctua,* the Hoopoe, Jay, Dipper, Partridge, Nightingale, *Hypolais elaica* and *Sylvia hortensis, Saxicola morio* and *Emberiza cæsia,* the two Shrikes, *Lanius nubicus* and *L. collurio,* and the Linnet, Chaffinch, and Raven. The last-named bird is very numerous and may be seen every afternoon flocking to the slaughter-house. It is worthy of note that the Grey Crow does not seem to come above Platraes.

With Troödos my work in Cyprus practically ceased. I returned to Nikosia, June 20th, after an absence of three months and a half, and found the Jubilee rejoicings at their height. I got together my collections and went down to Larnaka, only to find a similar series of fêtes just commencing. On the last day of June the mail-steamer came in, and getting my luggage on board I bade adieu to the island and to some of the many kind friends who had done their best to assist me in my wanderings on it.

IX.—*On the presence of Claws in the Wings of the Ratitæ.*

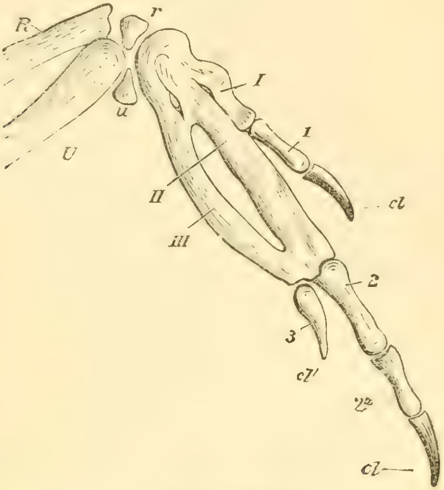
By W. K. Parker, F.R.S.

It has long been known that the Ostrich (*Struthio*) and the Nandu (*Rhea*) have a horny *unguis*—a nail or claw on their first and second wing-digits, those which correspond to our *thumb* and *index-finger*.

But in a paper sent by me to the Royal Society on the 13th of January, 1887 (only, as yet, published in abstract), I gave an account of the discovery of a small claw on the imperfect third digit of the wing in both the Rhea and the Ostrich—in the latter in a half-grown specimen, and in the former in the adult. These specimens are to be found in their proper cases in the Hunterian Museum.

It has also been known, for some time past, that the abortively developed third digit in these birds has two phalanges beyond the metacarpal; and after my paper was read Mr. Wray brought before the Zoological Society of London a very important notice of the condition of this distal phalanx of the third digit (see Proc. Zool. Soc. 1887, pp. 283, 284). It was shown in that paper that a considerable tract of cartilage is developed beyond the *normally ornithic* proximal phalanx, and that this acquires an osseous centre of its own.

Fig. 1.



Manus of *Struthio.*

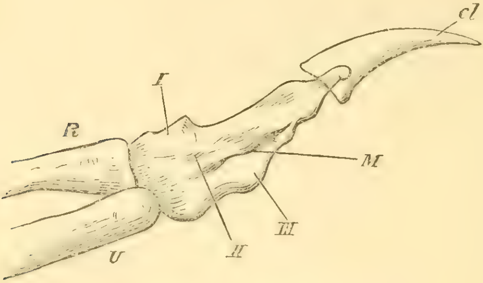
R, radius; *U*, ulna; *r*, radial carpal bone; *u*, ulnar carpal; *I, II, III,* first, second, and third metacarpals; 1, 2, 2*a*, 3, phalanges of digits; *cl, cl′*, claws.

N.B.—The small claw on the third digit is not shown in this specimen.

In these two types of the Ratitæ we have therefore the primary Reptilian (*Ornithoscelidan*) form of the bird's wing, even the abortively developed third digit having a small claw at its end. That digit *should* have *four* phalanges to make it normal as a Reptilian "finger;" the proximal piece therefore answers to three, in an undivided state, for the distal phalanx must be that which carries the claw.

In the adult Indian Cassowary (*Casuarius galeatus*) there is only one carpal bone free; the "manus" is a solid single piece, with only one finger (the second or "index") developed, and this has only *two* phalanges—it ought to have *three*; and the distal phalanx is an inch long and carries a large claw.

Fig. 2.



Manus of *Casuarius*.

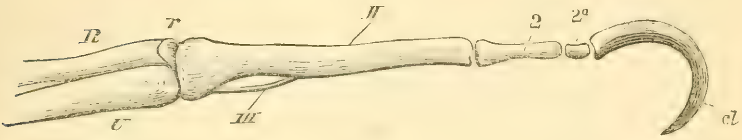
R, radius; *U*, ulna; *M*, elements of manus consolidated; *cl*, claw.

In the ripe embryo of a specimen of the Mooruk (*C. bennetti*) I find *four* cartilaginous carpal nuclei and three metacarpal rays: the first is very small and feeble; the second very strong and with the normal number of phalanges (*i. e.*, *three* beside the metacarpal), and the distal or ungual joint is very long and carries a long claw; the third metacarpal is about one sixth the size of the second, and has no phalanges on it.

In the Emu (*Dromæus*) the second digit has two phalanges and a long curved claw. In a young bird six weeks old I find one finger, the index or second, well developed relatively to the small wing, with the normal number of phalanges, and with a curved claw on the distal joint. The "manus" is composed apparently of only two metacarpals.

In the adult *Apteryx oweni* the metacarpal piece ("manus") is certainly compound, the segment belonging to the pollex being evidently added to that of the index; this ray or digit has only two phalanges, and the distal joint carries a small curved claw.

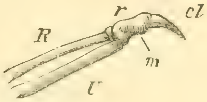
Fig. 3.



Manus of *Dromæus.*

R, radius; *U*, ulna; *r*, radial carpal; *II*, second metacarpal; *III*, third metacarpal, rudimentary; 2, 2*a*, phalanges of second digit; *cl*, claw.

Fig. 4.



Manus of *Apteryx.*

R, radius; *U*, ulna; *r*, radial carpal; *m*, fused metacarpals; *cl*, claw at end of second digit.

In *Apteryx australis* there appears to be only one finger, the index, with its terminal claw, and with only *two* phalanges; the "manus" is broad, proximally, and is evidently compound.

My son, Prof. T. J. Parker, who is now working out the development of the *Kiwi*, tells me that in the early embryo the outward and visible form of the *three* normal ornithic *fingers* can be seen, but that there are not three tracts of cartilage developed within. I hope soon to receive this memoir for publication.

Thus we see that these *waifs* of an ancient and very Reptilian Avifauna have not only an arrested, but also an archaic condition of the wing. When *most* developed, as in *Rhea* and *Struthio,* in which the *carpus* comes very near that of the perfect modern bird, I have seen no signs as yet of those secondary digital rays that help to form the framework for the implantation of the "primaries" in the "manus" of a typical Carinate Bird. These additional parts, which will be described in the paper referred to above, will help us to understand the huge progress made by the bird since the time when the old Struthious types possessed the earth.

X.—*Descriptions of two new Species of Birds from Bogotá, Colombia.* By Hans von Berlepsch.

1. Buarremon simplex, sp. nov.

Diagn. *B. elæoproro,* Scl. et Salv., ex Antioquia, simillimus, sed speculo alari albo omnino caret. Al. 71–78, caud. 77½–80½, rostr. 13½, tars. 26 mm.

Hab. Bogotá, Colombia, duo specimina in Mus. H. v. Berlepsch.

About a year ago I got two skins of this new species from Mr. A. Boucard, of Paris, together with many other Bogotá skins, all of them being of the usual Indian make, by which they are easily known as having been collected in the vicinity of Bogotá.

In the olivaceous colour of its back *B. simplex* comes very close to *B. elæoprorus,* Scl. & Salv., P. Z. S. 1879, p. 504, ex Antioquia, but in the new species the large white alar speculum characteristic of that species is altogether absent. There are perhaps slight traces of white at the extreme base of the primaries, but it does not extend to the end of the coverts to form a speculum.